

ARCHDIOCESE OF KUCHING VISION & MISSION



PREAMBLE

This document serves to present the Vision and Mission of the Archdiocese of Kuching.

The Vision and Mission were formulated from the proposals of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Congress held from the 19th to 21st August 2012. The Congress was convened after the completion of the five-year Pastoral Focus on the Family which ran from 2007 to 2011 inclusively.

The Congress took the Gospel of John as the basis for its deliberations and resolutions. Participants of the Congress were lay leaders from all parishes, religious and priests, and the Archbishop of Kuching.

All the proposals from the participants of the Congress were adopted and constitute the greater portion of this document. The Archbishop offered several “supplements” which have also been included in this document. Before their final adoption by the Archbishop, all these proposals were tabled at the priests’ meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council on 20th October 2012 for further comments.

The adopted Vision and Mission of the Archdiocese of Kuching is presented in this booklet.



VISION

WE STRIVE TO BE CHURCH BY BEING
DISCIPLES OF THE WORD
IN COMMUNION FOR MISSION.

MISSION

WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION
IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS.



A. DISCIPLES OF THE WORD

1. To provide ongoing formation on the Word of God and the teachings of the Church and make the celebration of the Sacraments alive and meaningful for all the clergy, religious and laity at different levels:
 - a) Through sound catechesis of children, youth and adults. For students, catechism classes must be provided either in school or in the parish.
 - b) The “Malaysian Catechetical Series” which has been produced in English, Chinese and BM must be used. While catechists play an important role here, priests and religious must be committed and even directly involved in catechetical work. *(from the “Archbishop’s Supplement”)*.
 - c) Through programmes that help faithful to encounter God and experience the Holy Spirit – for example, Life in the Spirit seminar; Alpha course; growth seminar.
 - d) Through homilies that clearly present the teachings of the Church as well as address difficult and sensitive issues.
 - e) Through the use of the Word of God in the Bible in every possible opportunity – for example, rosary, wake prayers, birthdays, prayers for the sick.
 - f) Through the personal possession and use of the Scriptures in daily prayer.
 - g) Through mutual support and networking to live the Catholic faith.

2. To select, equip and empower more lay leaders to make them effective and confident agents of the new evangelisation so that they can make new disciples for the Lord:
 - a) By helping them to recognise their ownership, stewardship and responsibility for the Church.
 - b) Through formation and training programmes – which could be centralised.
 - c) Through a process of evaluation to help them.

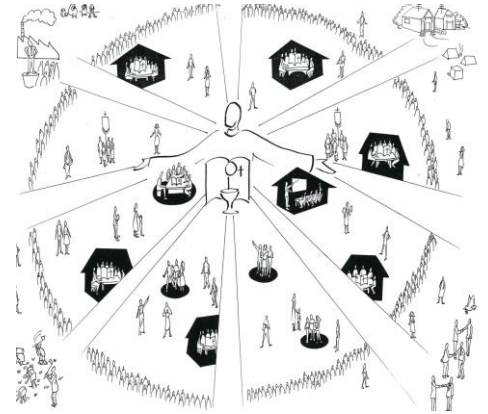
3. To help the faithful, especially the young, to counter forces and prevailing philosophies at odds with the Gospel:
 - a) Through Catholic education – in this connection, we need to equip and train Catholic educators to teach the Catholic faith in all institutions of learning.
 - b) By helping parents to realise that they are primary catechists and providing them the basic tools and knowledge to fulfill this role of theirs.

4. To wisely manage and use the rich resources on the Bible and teachings of the Church as well as take advantage of new technology, print and mass media for faith formation.
 - a) Make these resources available and accessible.
 - b) Where necessary, employ dedicated personnel to manage these resources.
 - c) Encourage translation of the Bible and resources into local languages.
 - d) Prepare Sunday homilies with catechetical content and provide them as resource for use by prayer leaders during Sunday services.
 - e) Set up programmes and provide facilities and personnel to train lay leaders for the work of the Gospel.

5. To promote more vigorously existing effective faith formation programmes – for example, Alpha courses, the Great Adventure, guided Catholic bible studies – and integrate them into pastoral strategy of parishes.



B. COMMUNION



1. To promote good communication, meaningful collaboration and co-ordination of different ministries within every parish and among different parishes, and even with other dioceses and Christian Churches.
 - a) Through inculcation of an outward-looking attitude and a readiness to contribute towards the growth of the parish and the Archdiocese (*from the "Archbishop's Supplement"*).
 - b) Through the sharing of resources, expertise, materials and facilities.
2. To promote communion in the parish. The Parish Council is the official body, while in the Archdiocese it is the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. In this communion, all priests and lay leaders are to imitate Jesus "our Lord and Teacher who washed the feet" of His disciples (cf. Jn. 13:12-20). (*From the "Archbishop's Supplement"*.)
3. To highlight and help the faithful recognise the signs of communion:
 - a) Through the Eucharist which is the source and sign *par excellence* of our communion. In this connection, it is necessary to promote and nurture vocations to the priesthood.
 - b) By recognising the role of the Pope and Bishops who are visible signs of communion of the universal and local Church.
 - c) By acknowledging the contribution of the religious in the life of the Church. It is necessary to encourage vocations to religious life.
4. To involve all baptised and even catechumens in the different church ministries to give them a sense of belonging to the faith community.

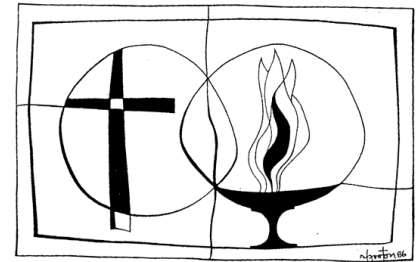
5. To create situations conducive to promoting friendship and fellowship among the faithful:
 - a) By passing symbols of faith from home to home for communal prayers – for example, statue or image of Mother Mary, the cross, rosary.
 - b) Through the warm exercise of hospitality or greeters' ministry.
 - c) Through informal occasions for fellowship – for example, coffee morning, family day, telematch.
 - d) By setting up small communities of faith – for example, cell groups, covenant communities, prayer groups, family bloc rosary groups, small Christian communities or other neighbourhood groups.
 - e) By exercising ministry to the bereaved to show love, care and support.



C. MISSION

1. To form, equip and empower the laity and families to be evangelisers in their neighbourhood, *taman-taman* and village.
2. To reach out to different target groups of people, including young people, lapsed Catholics, non-Christians, catechumens, neophytes, migrants, marginalised and needy.
 - a) Journey with them as well as provide them with faith formation, spiritual and emotional support, and material relief.
 - b) Provide transport to those who need it.
 - c) Equip them to deal with the more mundane problems they face everyday – for example, through talks on budgeting, facilities for health screening, help with loan application, and so forth.

- d) Set up a centre to assist those who need employment by connecting them with prospective employers.
 - e) Here, the contribution of the Legion of Mary, the largest movement in the Archdiocese, to the mission of the Church is acknowledged (*from the "Archbishop's Supplement"*).
3. To make the Sacraments readily available.
 - a) Priests are to be available for Confession and Sacrament of the Sick.
 - b) Irregular marriages are to be convalidated.
 4. To use funerals and weddings as pastoral opportunities for evangelisation and ministering to those who are no longer practising their faith.



D. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. To embark on a consolidated approach to educate our people on constitutional rights including religious freedom.
 - a) To take a bold stand with different Christian Churches against the erosion of religious freedom.
 - b) To make prudent use of political means available and exercise the right to vote.
2. To promote, utilise and even improve on existing structures to minister to our young people – for example, Kuching Archdiocesan Youth Apostolate*, Young Christian Students, campus network, and adopt the *Keluarga Angkat* arrangement for students and young people away from home.

(**Better known by its acronym KAYA, this is a four-week live-in formation primarily for students who are waiting for their SPM and STPM public examination results*).

3. To set up a task force at the Archdiocesan level to help victims of violation.
4. To encourage the faithful to form or join NGOs, institutions or formalised and legalised organisations. These can serve as the “think tank” and channels to assist Christians at the grassroots.
5. To encourage lay people to be actively involved in politics so as to provide an avenue to bring the needs of the Church up to the leaders of the country; to ensure that political differences do not divide Church community at all levels. (*From the “Archbishop’s Supplement”*).
6. To a large extent, the work of human development in the Archdiocese has been carried out by both the Catholic Welfare Services and the St. Vincent de Paul Society (*from the “Archbishop’s Supplement”*).

E. ARCHBISHOP’S SUPPLEMENT

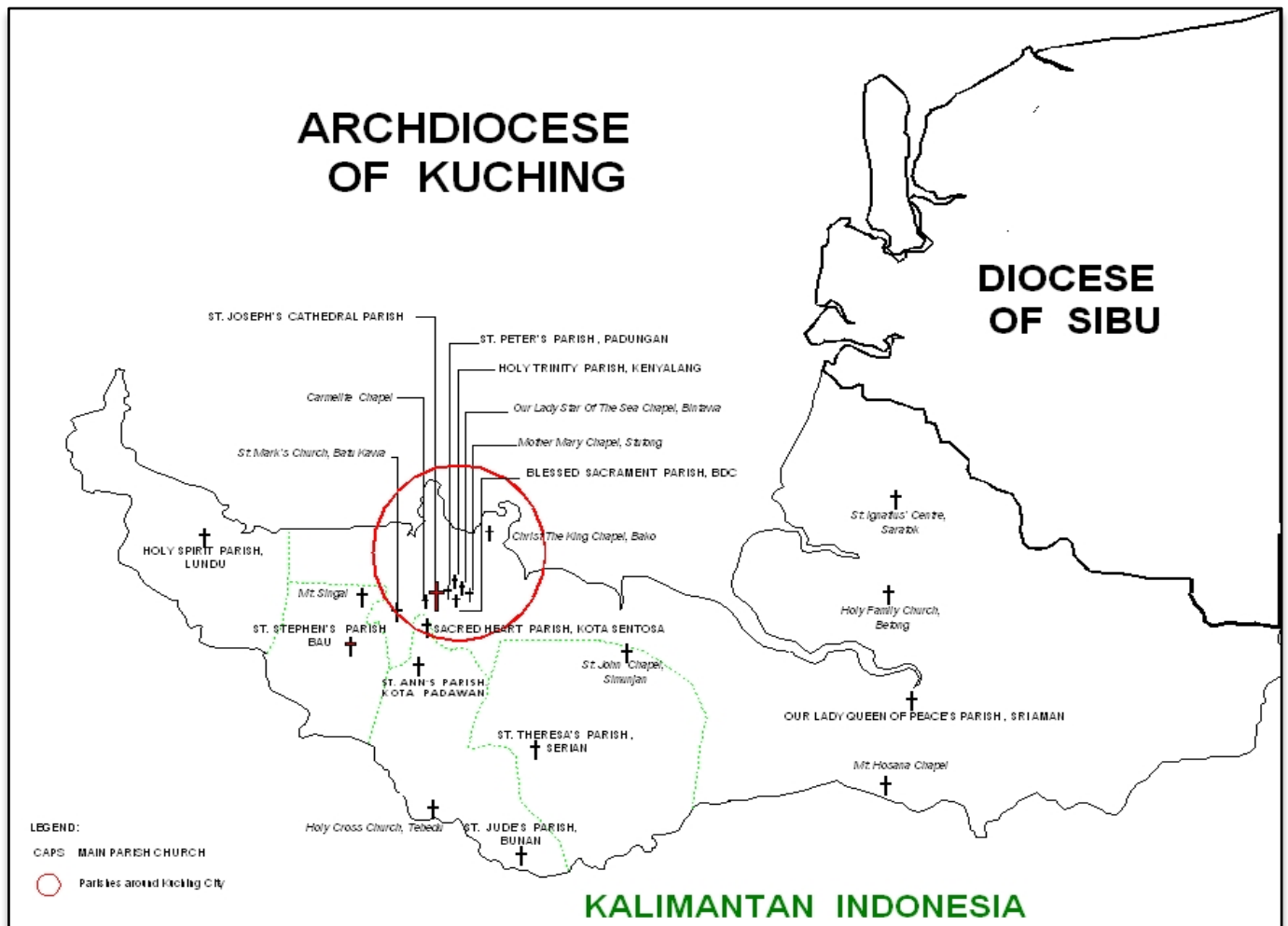


1. To continue our “Focus on the Family” and strengthen family life as the domestic Church.
 - a) By addressing areas where our five-year focus on the family had not done so satisfactorily.
 - b) By providing young couples support through sponsorship after the model of baptism and confirmation.
 - c) By encouraging parents to have more children.
2. Where Catholic education is concerned:
 - a) To set up or work towards setting up Catholic kindergartens to impart the Catholic faith to our young children.
 - b) To look into the feasibility of setting up boarding hostels for our students in rural areas close to the schools they attend with a view to supervising their studies and inculcating Catholic values in them.



ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit's role in our discipleship and communion, as well as pastoral, evangelising and missionary endeavours, is indispensable. For He is indeed the primary agent of our life, ministry and mission as Church. With the assurance of His presence and guidance, we will embark on our journey towards the vision by carrying out the resolutions taken at the Congress.



MAP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KUCHING

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19th March 2013*